

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05861 261353Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 261113Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2801

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO REPUBLICAN NOMINATION

REF: TEL AVIV 5007

1. MOST COMMENTATORS WERE PLEASED WITH THE SELECTIBN OF DOLE. HAARETZ AND THE JERUSALEM POST CALLED HIM A "FRIEND OF ISRAEL". BUT DAVAR EDITORIALIZED THAT "IN PICKING DOLE, FORD SOUGHT TO PROVE...THAT HE IS NO LESS A LEGITIMATE CONSERVATIVE THAN REAGAN", A CHOICE THAT MAY "ALIENATE MILLIONS OF FLOATING VOTERS."

2. NOW THAT BOTH PARTIES HAVE HAD THEIR CONVENTIONS, PAPERS AND COMMENTATORS SEEMED ABOUT EVENLY-DIVIDED IN THEIR LEANINGS TOWARD ONE OR THE OTHER PARTY'S NOMINEE, WITH NONE TAKING ANYTHING LIKE A STRONG STAND IN FAVOR OF EITHER TICKET. WHEREAS THE JERUSALEM POST FOUND THE FORD ADMINISTRATION WANTING ON ITS HANDLING OF THE ARAB BOYCOTT AND ITS PLANNED ARMS SALES TO EGYPT, RABBI HERTZBERG (PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN-JEWISH

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 05861 261353Z

CONGRESS), WRITING IN DAVAR, DREW UP A BALANCE SHEET

BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES THAT APPEARED TO PLACE FORD SLIGHTLY AHEAD ON JEWISH ISSUES. ALL PAPERS PUT FORD IN THE POSITION OF UNDERDOG.

3. SEVERAL PAPERS TOOK UP THE THEME THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS THE LOSER AS A RESULT OF THE ADOPTION OF A REPUBLICAN PLANK WHICH IS SEEN TO BE CRITICAL OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. MOST PAPERS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION FOR THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM'S PRO-ISRAEL PLANKS, AS THEY HAD EARLIER BEEN GENERALLY PLEASED WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

4. FOR THE TIME BEING, THE ISRAELI PRESS SEEMS TO BE SOMEWHAT HESITANT IN APPRAISING THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF ISRAELI CONCERNS. THIS IS PROBABLY DUE TO AN EXPECTATION THAT FORD AND CARTER WILL OFFER MORE SPECIFICS ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES AS THE CAMPAIGN HEATS UP.
TOON

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